

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3 and 11-19 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims.

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A level of an integrated circuit comprising:

a core area, said core area having a first density of features; and

a peripheral area, said peripheral area having a second density of features wherein said second density is substantially similar to said first density.

5. (Original) The level of an integrated circuit of claim 4 wherein said second density is within $\pm 10\%$ of said first density.

6. (Currently Amended) A level of an integrated circuit comprising:

a first area having a first plurality of active features having a first active feature density; and

a second area adjacent to said first area, said second area having a plurality of dummy features having a density substantially similar to said first active feature density.

7. (Currently Amended) The level of claim 6 wherein said first active feature density is approximately 50%.

8. (Currently Amended) The integrated circuit of claim 4 wherein said dummy features have substantially the same pitch as the active features in said first area.

9. (Currently Amended) The level of an integrated circuit of claim 6 wherein said dummy features have substantially the same shape and spacing as said active features in said first area.

10. (Original) The level of claim 6 wherein said shape and spacing of said dummy features are within 30% of said shape and spacing of said first plurality of features.

11-19. (Canceled)